

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) A pipe coupling for connecting together the ends of two pipes, comprising a tubular casing, having circumferentially extending end flanges projecting inwardly from the axial ends of the casing, a tubular sealing sleeve inside the casing, tensioning means for tightening the casing around the sealing sleeve, and frusto-conical gripping rings located within the casing at opposite ends of the casing, the inner edges of the gripping rings being formed with teeth, the casing comprising a strip of metal formed into a tube with a gap extending longitudinally of the casing between the free ends of the strip, the tensioning means interconnecting the free ends of the strip, the arrangement being such that when the coupling is placed around the ends of two pipes to be connected and the tensioning means are tightened the casing presses the sealing sleeve against the pipe ends to form seals, and forcing the teeth on the gripping ring to bite into the surface of the pipes to grip the pipes characterized in that the free ends of the strip are bent outwardly to form radially projecting flanges extending longitudinally of the casing on opposite sides of the gap, the two radially projecting flanges being placed between two reinforcing members which extend substantially the length of the coupling, the tensioning means passing through sets of aligned holes in the reinforcing members and the radially projecting flanges, the reinforcing members each having an angled cross-section, a web portion through which the holes for the tensioning means pass, and a flange running along the longitudinal edge of the

web portion that is nearer to the axis of the coupling, the flange of the reinforcing member bearing against the tubular portion of the casing.

11. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 10 in which each reinforcing member has a channel-shaped cross section with flanges running along both longitudinal edges of the web portion.

12. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 10 in which there are two sets of aligned holes and the tensioning means comprise two screw bolts and nuts.

13. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 11 in which there are two sets of aligned holes, the tensioning means comprise two screw bolts and nuts and the heads of the screw bolts and the nuts bear against the web portion when the tensioning means are tightened.

14. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 12 in which the nuts are of a size that fits between the sides of the reinforcing member so as to prevent rotation of the nuts.

15. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 12 which is arranged such that as the bolts are tightened, the radially projecting flanges can be drawn together thereby applying a radially compressive force to the casing.

16. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 10 in which the aligned holes are elongated in the radial direction.

17. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 10 in which a backing ring is provided inside the casing adjacent each gripping ring between the gripping ring and the sealing sleeve to prevent the sealing sleeve bulging between the teeth of the gripping ring.

18. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 10 in which an inner sleeve is provided inside the sealing sleeve to prevent the sealing sleeve bulging inwardly between the pipe ends.

19. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 10 in which the outer ends of the radially projecting flanges are bent back to form stiffening flanges along the longitudinal outer edges of the radially projecting flanges.

20. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 19 in which the radially projecting flanges are bent back at right angles.

21. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 11 in which there are two sets of aligned holes and the tensioning means comprise two screw bolts and nuts.

22. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 13 in which the nuts are of a size that fits between the sides of the reinforcing member so as to prevent rotation of the nuts.

23. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 13 which is arranged such that as the bolts are tightened, the radially projecting flanges can be drawn together thereby applying a radially compressive force to the casing.

24. (New) A pipe coupling according to claim 14 which is arranged such that as the bolts are tightened, the radially projecting flanges can be drawn together thereby applying a radially compressive force to the casing.